

Public Notice: Request for Comments

2014 Draft Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan

Notice issued _____, 2014, comments due 5 p.m. _____, _____, 2014.

Background.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requesting comments on a Draft Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan (Oregon NPS Plan).

DEQ is updating its existing Oregon NPS Plan last completed in October 2000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) how requires each state's Oregon NPS Plan to be updated every five years.

Purpose of Oregon's Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan.

Oregon's NPS Plan describes goals, priorities, objectives and strategies for preventing, controlling and eliminating pollution of Oregon's waters from nonpoint sources.

A nonpoint source of pollution is any pollution entering a waterbody that does not come directly from a pipe.

Nonpoint pollution ~~it~~ occurs when rainfall and snowmelt flows off the agriculture, forest, rural residential, and urban land uses, roads, buildings and other features of the landscape. This diffuse runoff carries pollutants into drainage ditches, lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, bays and aquifers and other waters of the state.

The Oregon NPS Plan includes the measures necessary to meet federal and state surface and groundwater water quality standards, drinking water standards, and meet established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations for waterbodies designated as water quality limited on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters.

The annual milestones proposed in the draft Oregon NPS Plan are intended to be general enough to accommodate long-term Oregon NPS Management Program planning goals, while being specific enough for the state to track progress and for EPA to determine satisfactory progress in accordance with Section 319 of the federal CWA.

The Oregon NPS Management Program represents a unified approach reflecting the fact that Oregon intends to continue to collaborate, implement and prioritize actions to address NPS problems on a statewide watershed basis. One of Oregon's primary goals is to strengthen its working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizens groups, and federal agencies.

Written comments due _____, 2014.

DEQ is taking written comments on this draft Oregon NPS Plan through 5 p.m. _____. Comments may be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to DEQ. Please mail comments to Don Yon, DEQ Water Quality Division, 811 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR 97204. Comments may also be e-mailed to yon.donald.r@deq.state.or.us or faxed to Don Yon at 503-229-6037. Don Yon may be reached directly at 503-229-6850, toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, x 6850.

How can I review the document?

Internet: The draft Oregon NPS can be viewed on DEQ's website at: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/OregonNPSPlan.htm>.

DEQ Offices*: The Draft Oregon NPS Plan is also available for review and copying at the following DEQ offices:
Portland: 811 S.W. 6th Ave.
Medford: 221 Stewart Ave., Suite 201
Eugene: 165 E. 7th Ave., Suite 100
Bend: 475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110

*While not required for your document review, scheduling an appointment at a DEQ office is encouraged to ensure documents are readily accessible during your visit. For a review appointment in Portland, call Trina Brown at 503-229-6982. For Medford appointments, call 541-776-6010. For Eugene appointments, call 541-686-7838. For Bend appointments, call 541-388-6146.

What are DEQ's responsibilities?

DEQ is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environmental quality. EPA has delegated authority to DEQ to administer the federal Clean Water Act, which



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Commented [CJ1]: Otherwise folks will wonder why the plan has not been updated since 2000.

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Federal and State law requires DEQ to collaborate with other agencies and partners, as previously listed,

which work together in an active and effective partnership to protect state waters in Oregon.

The NPS Management Program uses a combination of federal and state authorities for implementing statewide, programmatic and geographic priorities, objectives, and strategies to achieve its short- and long-term goals.

Who is responsible for implementing the Oregon NPS Plan?

Responsibility for managing water resources in Oregon is shared among several partners: state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local entities (including conservation districts), private sector groups, citizens groups, individual citizens and federal agencies, including citizen groups and the very important individual actions. The program relies on a combination of state and federal laws and local ordinances.

Implementation of the plan relies on collaborative effort of many agencies and partners listed above.

Both the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry have a significant role in addressing NPS pollution from agriculture and private and state forestry sources. For federal forestry sources, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) implement many restoration and protection management practices of the Oregon plan. Implementation within urban areas involves the many cities, counties and applicable districts as noted in the Oregon NPS Plan.

Need for action.

Oregon's NPS Management Program conducts water quality monitoring and analysis (primarily DEQ), develops and uses technical water quality/Geographic Information System data with watershed partners. It uses a balanced approach of education, research, technical assistance, financial incentives and regulation.

DEQ and partners such as Departments of Land Conservation and Development, Agriculture, Forestry and many federal agencies also develop and implement pollution control and reduction strategies for

a wide range of activities that affect the quality of the state's waters.

These activities include but are not limited to forestry, agriculture, grazing, transportation, recreation, hydromodification, marinas and urban development, land-use planning, fish and wildlife habitat, streamside and wetlands

protection and restoration, public education and water resources.

Clean Water Act Section 319 funding.

Another key component of Oregon's NPS Management Program is the coordination of monies that funds DEQ's NPS Management Program staff and the NPS Grant Program. The 319-grant program provides funding to cooperating entities for activities emphasizing watershed protection and enhancement, watershed restoration, voluntary stewardship, and partnerships among watershed stakeholders.

The Oregon NPS Management Program integrates with other relevant programs to restore and protect water quality. It also aligns priority setting processes and resources to increase efficiency and environmental results. This includes alignment with significant match funding provided through the Oregon Water Resources Board's parallel granting programs.

The Oregon NPS Plan describes outcomes and key actions expected over the five-year Oregon NPS Plan period. Some actions occur every year, others have fixed end target dates, and some occur every five years, such as updates to the DEQ MOUs with the BLM and the USFS. These MOUs require publication of the *Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 5 Year Progress Report* <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/docs/5YearProgRepFinal201003.pdf> and recommendations for revisions/updates to the MOUs and the Oregon NPS Plan.

Some examples of annual milestones and success stories include developing an annual Section 319-grant work plan, implementing projects in various high-priority impaired watersheds, and describing a number of success stories in Oregon's NPS Annual Report submitted to EPA.

What happens next?

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. DEQ does not plan to hold a public hearing about the



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Commented [CJ2]: I thought that most of the funds are used for restoration.

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proposed Oregon NPS Plan or Respond
directly to comments.

Following its review, DEQ will modify the Oregon NPS Plan if necessary and send to EPA for approval. After EPA approves the Oregon Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan, DEQ will post it on its NPS website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/Oregon NPS Plan.htm>. DEQ will notify all who have

provided comments and affected parties when EPA approves the Final Oregon NPS Plan and about Oregon NPS Plan updates. If you do not comment and are not an affected party but wish to receive notification, please contact DEQ as indicated previously in this notice.

Accessibility information.

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ at 503-229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011, x 5696.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.



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